

purchase a TTY. TTYs loaned through the inter-agency program are purchased by and remain the property of NCDHH. Agencies wishing to request a TTY must submit a letter of request to the Executive Director of NCDHH.

Nebraska Equipment Distribution Program (NEDP)

The goal of this program is to provide monetary assistance to persons with disabilities. These persons will then use the financial assistance to aid in the purchasing of specialized telephone equipment such as amplifiers, signaling devices and TTY/TT's.

The Nebraska State Legislature established the Nebraska Equipment Distribution Program during the 1995 legislative session. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is mandated to develop specific procedures necessary for implementation of the program and is responsible for management of the program.

In 1999, the legislature passed a bill that removed the income guideline requirement. The equipment distribution program will issue a voucher of up to \$1,000 to Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, and Speech Disabled persons.

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) is a state agency designed to serve the deaf and hard of hearing people in Nebraska. As set up by the State Legislature in 1979, the Commission's goals have been divided into

the following areas:

- 1) Collect data and disseminate information about deaf and hard of hearing Nebraskans and conduct research in the area of deafness;
- 2) Develop communication processes involving training and certification of interpreters statewide and promote an awareness of the deaf and hard of hearing to state and local community agencies;
- 3) Inventory, monitor and assess services available for the deaf and hard of hearing and assist them in securing such services.



project hear broc.p65 -- 04/30/0202

For more information please contact:

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Visit Us on the Web:
<http://www.nol.org/home/NCDHH>

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Closed on State Holidays)

Nebraska Educational Assistive Technology Center (N.E.A.T. Center)

Contact Patti Neill
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Project H.E.A.R.

Hear
Everything
Around the
Region

Reaching out
Improving Communication and Life
for Persons who are Deaf
or Hard of Hearing

Nebraska Commission
for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing



What is Project H.E.A.R.?

Project H.E.A.R., “Hear Everything Around the Region” – Provides education about assistive technology equipment available for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, and speech impaired. Project H.E.A.R. was developed by the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in 1995. Current partners in this project are the N.E.A.T. Center (Nebraska Educational Assistive Technology Center), Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership and numerous dedicated individuals.

Project H.E.A.R. Goals

- Improve the quality of life for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Improve communication through assistive technologies.
- Provide information and services related to assistive technologies.
- Develop community support.
- Enhance services through regional networking.
- Expand local and regional resources in rural areas.

How can you become involved?

Project H.E.A.R. is always interested in the involvement of volunteers at the local or regional level. Peer volunteers can help in a variety of ways, such as sharing information on assistive technologies with local organizations or businesses, assisting with

a support group, being available to have others learn about your experiences with deafness or being hard of hearing, etc. Please call any one of the organizations listed on the back for more information on volunteer opportunities.

What are Assistive Technologies?

Assistive Technologies include equipment that enables people to function more independently. For those who are deaf or hard of hearing, this might include devices that amplify sounds (alarms or voices) or that provide visual input (lights on a doorbell or text on a telephone). Assistive technologies range in expense.

Have You Thought About Assistive Listening Devices?

- **Have problems hearing the telephone or doorbell;** there are a variety of options available to you, such as alerting devices, which use a flashing light or vibrations.
- **Experience difficulty hearing on the telephone;** there are listening devices, which can increase the volume of the sound (telephone amplifiers). They work by increasing the volume of the sound coming through your telephone. They can be either built into your telephone or external. You might consider carrying a portable amplifier with you when you are away from

home. You may also need to use a TTY (telephone with text to read) or the Nebraska Relay Service.



TTY

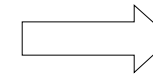
- **Have problems waking at a certain time;** you might find an alarm which provides a flashing or vibrating signal helpful for you. For heavy sleepers, there are bed vibrators, which can be placed under your mattress.
- **Have trouble listening to radio or television;** there are listening services, which allow you to increase the volume while not disturbing others in your home, from amplification to captioning. Television sets manufactured after July 1, 1993 are required to have captioning ability through a built-in chip, so the purchase of a separate decoder is not needed.
- **Cannot hear emergency warnings;** you might be particularly concerned that you will not be able to hear your smoke alarm. Smoke detectors can be connected to strobe lights, flashing lamps,



Closed Caption

vibrating device, or even a horn, all to enable you to be alerted to the smoke detector in your home. There are also similar devices available for burglary and fire alarms.

If you experience such difficulties, an Assistive Listening Device may help you to function more independently.



How can you obtain such a device?

Assistive Devices-Loan Programs

In cooperation with the Heartland Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America and the Frank H. Woods Telephone Pioneer Association, the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) provides a Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD or TTY), telecaption decoder and Pocketalker loan program. These devices are donated and maintained by the Pioneers. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans, who are unable to purchase assistive devices, are eligible to borrow them. The Pocketalker can be loaned for a period of two months. NCDHH will make inter-agency loans of TTYs to agencies or organizations requesting them. These loans are made for a one-year period to allow the agency time to determine if it has a need to